



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett
Southern District of Indiana**

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CONTACT: TIM HORTY
(317) 229-2409; Cell (317) 716-4250
tim.horty@usdoj.gov

HOGSETT ANNOUNCES FEDERAL CHARGES AGAINST SCOTT COUNTY MAN

U.S. Attorney says prosecution of illegally-armed felon is part of Violent Crime Initiative

PRESS RELEASE

SCOTTSBURG – Joseph H. Hogsett, the United States Attorney, announced today the federal indictment of Lonnie Dean Huff, a resident of Scott County. Huff has been charged by a grand jury with illegally possessing firearms as a convicted felon and possessing methamphetamine with the intent to distribute it, and he now faces up to twenty years in prison.

“Two years ago, this Office pledged to federally prosecute more illegally-armed drug dealers than ever before,” Hogsett said. “Our success in that effort has been due to cases similar to what has been alleged here – collaborative investigations targeting career criminals who view our local jails as their personal revolving door.”

The indictment alleges in May 2011, law enforcement found Huff to be in possession of a 9mm handgun, as well as a quantity of methamphetamine that he is alleged to have possessed with the intent to distribute locally. Huff is a convicted felon, and therefore is not legally entitled to possess a firearm. His criminal history includes a 2004 conviction in Scott County for conspiring to commit robbery.

This prosecution comes as part of the U.S. Attorney’s Violent Crime Initiative, and is the result of a collaborative investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as the Scott County Sheriff’s Department.

Announced in March of 2011, the Violent Crime Initiative represents a district-wide strategy to work with local law enforcement and county prosecutors to combat drug traffickers and criminals that use and carry firearms in their illegal activities. The VCI has produced a dramatic increase in the number of gun-related charges brought federally. In the year preceding the initiative, there were just 14 defendants charged with federal gun crimes by the

U.S. Attorney's Office. In the nearly two years since, more than 200 defendants have been charged.

"Through our Violent Crime Initiative, and in working with our law enforcement partners here in Scott County, we're sending a united message that illegally-armed felons will face the full force of federal law," Hogsett added.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney William L. McCoskey, who is prosecuting the case for the government, Huff faces up to ten years in federal prison if he is found guilty of illegally possessing the firearm, and up to twenty years for the drug count. Huff also faces significant fines and years of federally supervised release if convicted. An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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